

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AID, PFOR, JM, JS

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA (TAKE II)

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 3551

1. IT WILL BE RECALLED FROM REFTEL THAT IN SOME QUARTERS HERE
SUBJECT FOUNDATION IS SUSPECTED OF FRONTING FOR CIA AND ACTING AS A
DESTABILIZING AGENT. SOURCE OF THAT INFO, RICHARD FLETCHER,
CHAIRMAN SUGAR AUTHORITY, AGAIN CONFIRMED THAT SUSPICION
EVENING SEPTEMBER 4 IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM, AND ADDED NEW
DETAILS. ACCORDING FLETCHER, SOCIAL ACTION CENTER (THROUGH
WHICH FOUNDATION IS FUNNELING GRANTS TO SELECTED SUGAR
COOPERATIVES) IS NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EFFORT TAKE OVER
ENTIRE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT FROM TRADE UNION WINGS OF BOTH
GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES, AS WELL AS FROM GOJ
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE -- WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN COOPERATIVE
FIELD. TACTICS ARE DESCRIBED AS "EXTREME LEFT POLITICAL
AGITATION", INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS BY SOCIAL ACTION
CENTER THAT UNIONS AND GOJ HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING FOR
SUGAR WORKERS, BUT SOCIAL ACTION CENTER CAN THROUGH
RADICAL POLITICAL ACTION PROGRAM HELPED WITH "GENEROUS
FUNDING FROM US". AN END RESULT OF THIS STRUGGLE FOR
POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE SUGAR WORKERS' COOPERATIVES IS
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CHAOS IN THE CANEFIELDS, DROPPING PRODUCTION, AND

ESCALATING CHARGES OF CIA INVOLVEMENT. ON LATTER POINT, FLETCHER COMMENTED THAT BITU (LABOR WING OF OPPOSITION JLP) AND NWU (LABOR WING OF GOVERNMENT PNP) ARE DEFENDING THEIR POSITION WITH PUBLIC CHARGES THAT SOCIAL ACTION CENTER IS CIA FINANCED, AND THAT ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE CANEFIELDS ARE DIRECTED AT DESTABILIZATION THROUGH INDUSTRIAL UNREST. FLETCHER CLAIMED THAT CHARGE IS A TELLING ONE AND IS BELIEVED BY MANY, INCLUDING SOME WHO ARE MAKING THEM.

2. FLETCHER SAID MANY ELEMENTS IN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT ARE WORTHY OF SUPPORT, BUT THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH CHANNELS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE WORKER AND OF THE INDUSTRY -- AND NOT ONLY IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE. HE CHARGES LATTER IS ONLY INTEREST OF SOCIAL ACTION CENTER. ASKED WHETHER PM MANLEY SHARES HIS VIEWS AND CONCERNS, FLETCHER (SHO IS VERY CLOSE TO PM THROUGH HIS WIFE WHO IS MANLEY'S SISTER-IN-LAW) RESPONDED WITH AN EMPHATIC YES.

3. FLETCHER ALSO COMMENTED THAT FOUNDATION'S INVOLVEMENT WITH SOCIAL ACTION CENTER MADE ALL OF ITS OTHER ACTIVITIES AUTOMATUZWTLY SUSPECT -- INCLUDING AN APPARENTLY RATHER CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HOUSING MINISTER SPAULDING AND THE VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUNDATION WHO HAVE BEEN IN JAMAICA. (SPAULDING IS PERHAPS THE MOST VIOLENCE-PRONE, LEFTIST, AND ANTI-US MEMBER OF THE JAMAICAN CABINET. HE ALSO IS SEEN BY MOST HERE AS A MAJOR THREAT TO MANLEY -- AND IS PROBABLY VIEWED AS SUCH BY MANLEY.) FLETCHER SUGGESTED THAT THE ENTIRE ISSUE OF THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA WAS SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS THAT IT WOULD BE WORTH TAKING UP WITH PM MANLEY. INDICATIVE OF MANLEY'S CONCERN, FLETCHER NOTED THAT MATTER ALSO COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH HUGH SMALL, THE NEW AND LEFTIST PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY. ACCORDING FLETCHER, THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MANLEY "INFORMALLY ON SMALL'S PLATE FOR ANALYTICAL PURPOSES".

4. A SEPARATE CONVERSATION THIS PAST WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL

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FIRMED MUCH OF THE FOREGOING. LASCELLES BECKFORD, BITU ISLAND SUPERVISOR (I.E. NUMBER TWO IN THAT UNION) TOLD DCM THAT HIS UNION (AND THE NWU) HAD INDEED CHARGED THE SOCIAL ACTION CENTER WITH BEING ALIGNED WITH THE CIA IN AN EFFORT TO DESTABILIZE THE SUGAR INDUSTRY THROUGH INDUSTRIAL UNREST. MOREOVER, "MANY OF OUR PEOPLE BELIEVE IT". BECKFORD WAS ESPECIALLY BITTER SINCE HIS UNION HAS BEEN THE STRONGEST AND

MOST EFFECTIVE AMONG THE SUGAR WORKERS, BUT IS "BEING CUT TO PIECES" BY SOCIAL ACTION CENTER "AGITATORS" WHO "CUT AND RUN WHEN THERE IS ANY REAL WORK OR PROBLEM TO HANDLE". BECKFORD SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE USG WOULD WISH TO UNDERCUT ITS "FRIENDS" IN JAMAICA (THE BITU AND BY EXTENSION THE JLP).

5. FINALLY, FLETCHER VOLUNTEERED THAT AN AMERICAN JESUIT, FATHER OWENS, ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOCIAL ACTION CENTER IS LIKELY "TO GET HIMSELF KILLED" BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR IF HE CONTINUES HIS "AGITATION" AGAINST BOTH UNIONS, BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES, AND THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT. FLETCHER LIKENED HIM AND HIS ACTIVITIES TO FATHER BERRIGAN, AND SAID HE IS CLOSE TO TREVOR MUNROE, WHO HEADS JAMAICA'S COMMUNIST PARTY.

6. A FURTHER SIGN OF GOJ CONCERN CAME SEPTEMBER 7 WHEN AGRICULTURE MINISTER BELLANFANTI CALLED EMBASSY TO ADVISE GOJ OPPOSED TO ANY FURTHER FOUNDATION FUNDING OF SOCIAL ACTION CENTER OR COOPERATIVES, BUT WOULD WELCOME FOUNDATION FUNDING OF THE MINISTRY'S OWN COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT CENTER. IT WILL BE RECALLED FROM REFTEL THAT FOUNDATION REPS DURING THEIR LAST VISIT TO KINGSTON MET WITH BELLANFANTI AND SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACT CONTRARY TO MINISTER'S WISHES VISA-A-VIS FUNDING FOR THE SOCIAL ACTION CENTER.

7. COMMENT: FOREGOING SHOULD, IF NOTHING ELSE, UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACING RESTRAINTS ON FOUNDATION ALONG LINES REQUESTED IN REFTEL.
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